

### Submission Guidelines for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* Gradient Strip AST

**All test requests require preauthorization before specimen submission.**

#### 1) Isolate/Specimen Labeling Requirements

- a. Isolate/prepared specimen must be clearly labeled (electronically generated labels preferred)
- b. **A minimum of two unique patient identifiers.** Acceptable identifiers include:
  - i. Patient's full name
  - ii. Date of birth
  - iii. Medical record number
  - iv. Last 4 digits of social security number
- c. **Date of specimen collection**
- d. **Unlabeled specimens received by MDPHL will be rejected.**

#### 2) Shipping Requirements

- a. Once the specimen has been approved by MDPHL for shipment, the patient specimen should be prepared according to the criteria below:
  - i. If sending a clinical specimen, prepare according to GC collection kit instructions provided with the kit.
  - ii. If sending a frozen sample, ship using an insulated cooler contain with dry ice.
  - iii. If sending a slant, subculture the isolate on a chocolate slant and ship at ambient temperature.
- b. Include a completed copy of the Maryland Department of Health Infectious Agents: Culture/Detection form
  - i. See the "MDPHL Requisition Form – GC Etest"
  - ii. **All highlighted fields must be filled out, including submitter name and address, contact information, the ordering physician (Test Request Authorized by), patient information, date and time collected, and specimen source.**
  - iii. If it has not been preauthorized for testing, MDH will reject the specimen.

#### 3) Shipping Information

- a. Isolates/specimens should be shipped overnight Monday through Friday to the following address by FedEx or courier:
  - i. **Attn: ARLN Laboratory**  
**Maryland Department of Health**  
**1770 Ashland Ave.**  
**Baltimore, MD 21205**  
**Phone: 443-681-4569**
- b. The isolate/specimen should be shipped following the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Category B regulations.

#### 4) Contact Information

- a. For any questions, please contact [mdphl.arln@maryland.gov](mailto:mdphl.arln@maryland.gov) or call 443-681-3946.